Presentation to the Forestry Workgroup

The Chesapeake Bay Program Outcome Attainability

October 6, 2021

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January 1, 2026 – What is the Headline we want to see?

And . . . What can we do now that will influence these headlines?

Good

Bad

Outcome Attainability Team (OAT)

- For those Outcomes that have a target and a timeline:
  - What do we know about the status?
  - Which are on track, which are significantly off track?
  - What don't we know?
- For those Outcomes that have either no target or timeline:
  - How do we define success?
- Based on the answers to the questions above, where do we focus our time and attention?

Watershed Agreement Outcomes

Sustainable Fisheries

- Blue Crab Abundance & Management
- Oyster Restoration
- Fish Habitat
- Forage fish

Vital Habitats

- Fish Passage
- Forest Buffers
- Stream Health
  - Brook Trout
- SAV
- Tree Canopy
- Wetlands
  - Black Duck

Clean Water

- Watershed Implementation Plans - 2017 & 2025
- Water Quality Standards Attainment & Monitoring
- Toxic Contaminants Research
- Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention
- Healthy Watersheds

Conserved Lands

- Protected Lands
- Land Use Options Evaluation
- Land Use Methods & Metrics

Engaged Communities

- Diversity
- Public Access
- Citizen Stewardship
- Local Leadership
- Sustainable Schools
- Environmental Literacy Planning
- Student MWEEs

Climate Change

- Climate Monitoring and Assessment
- Climate Adaptation

Watershed Agreement Outcomes with Targets and Timelines

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*Target and date set by CBP. Not in original Outcome language

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Forest Buffers

Continually increase the capacity of forest buffers to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Restore 900 miles of riparian forest buffers per year and conserve existing buffers until at least 70 percent of riparian areas in the watershed are forested.

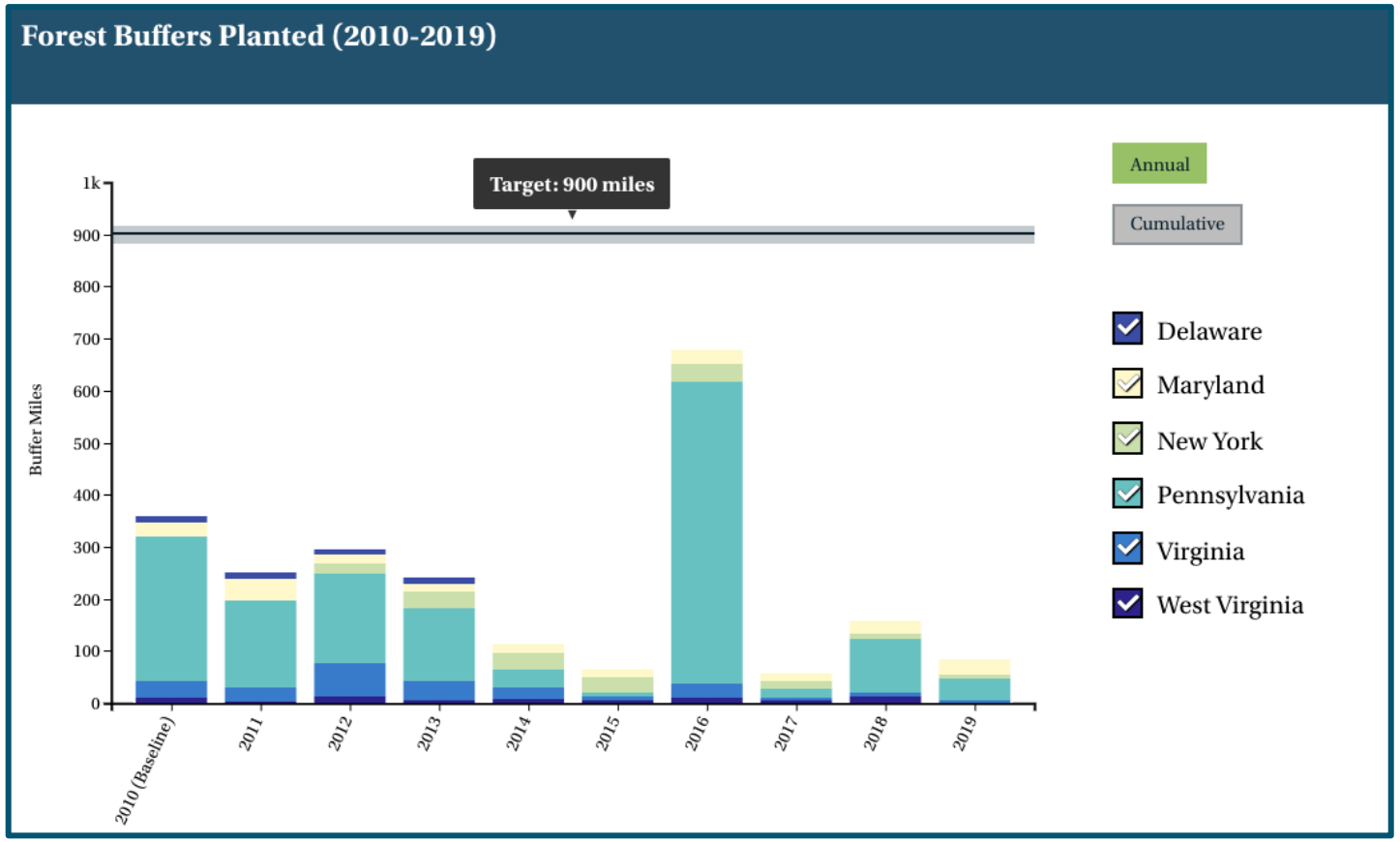
Progress needed to meet WIP3 goals (1719 miles/yr 2019-2025)

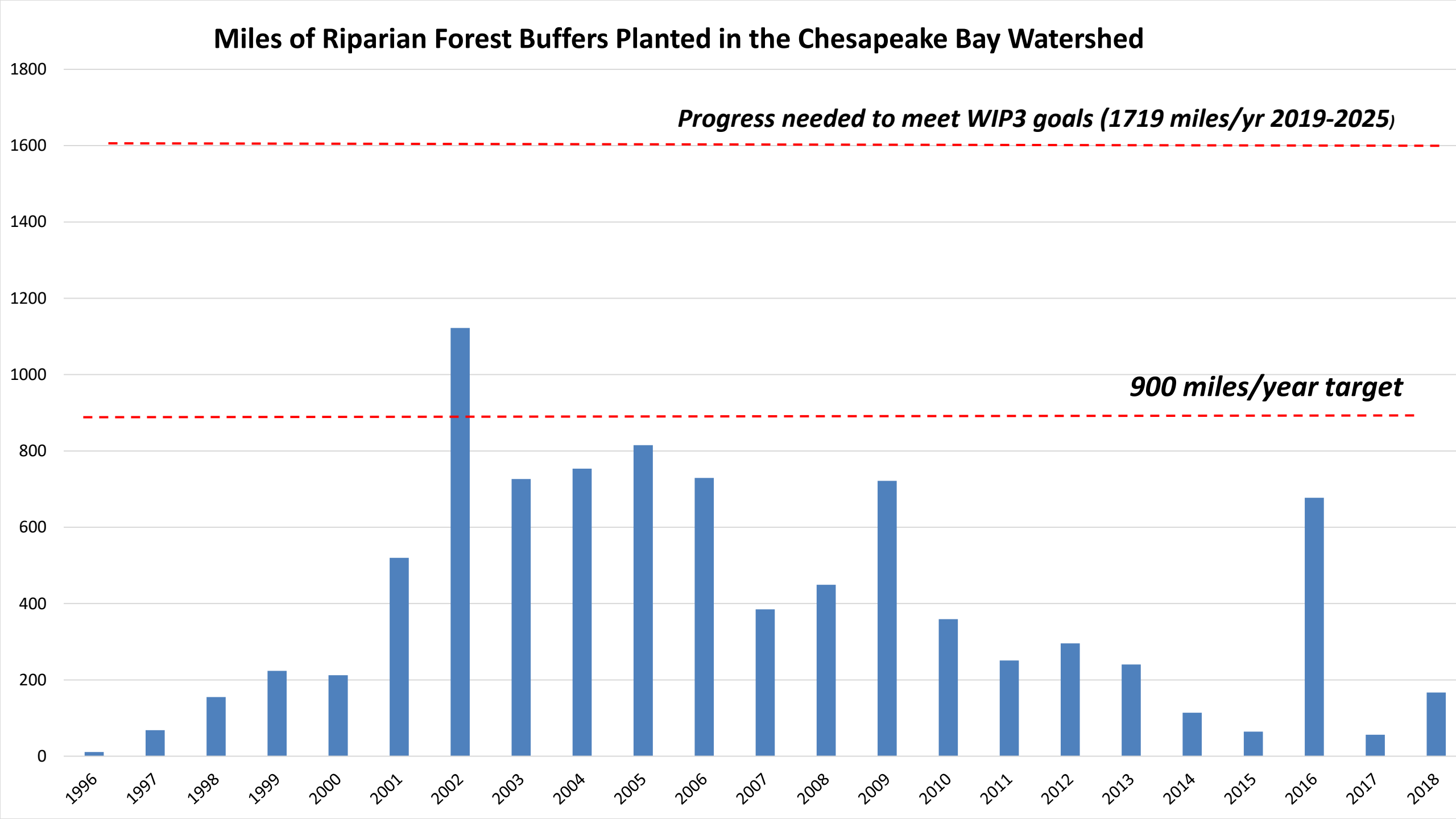
Current Progress

Between 2017 and 2018, about 158 miles of forest buffers were planted along rivers and streams, followed by about 83 miles in 2019. While this marks progress toward the outcome, it is 742 and 817 miles below the 900-mile-per-year target, respectively.

Not on Track

We are short of the 900-mile per year target and furthermore, this target is inadequate to meet the buffer goals outlined in the Phase III WIPs. To fill the gap between 2018 Progress and 2025 WIP III goals, we would need to add over 1,700 miles of forest buffers annually between 2019-2025.




Miles of Riparian Forest Buffers Planted in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
Progress needed to meet WIP3 goals (1719 miles/yr 2019-2025)
900 miles/year target
1800
1600
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018

Wetlands

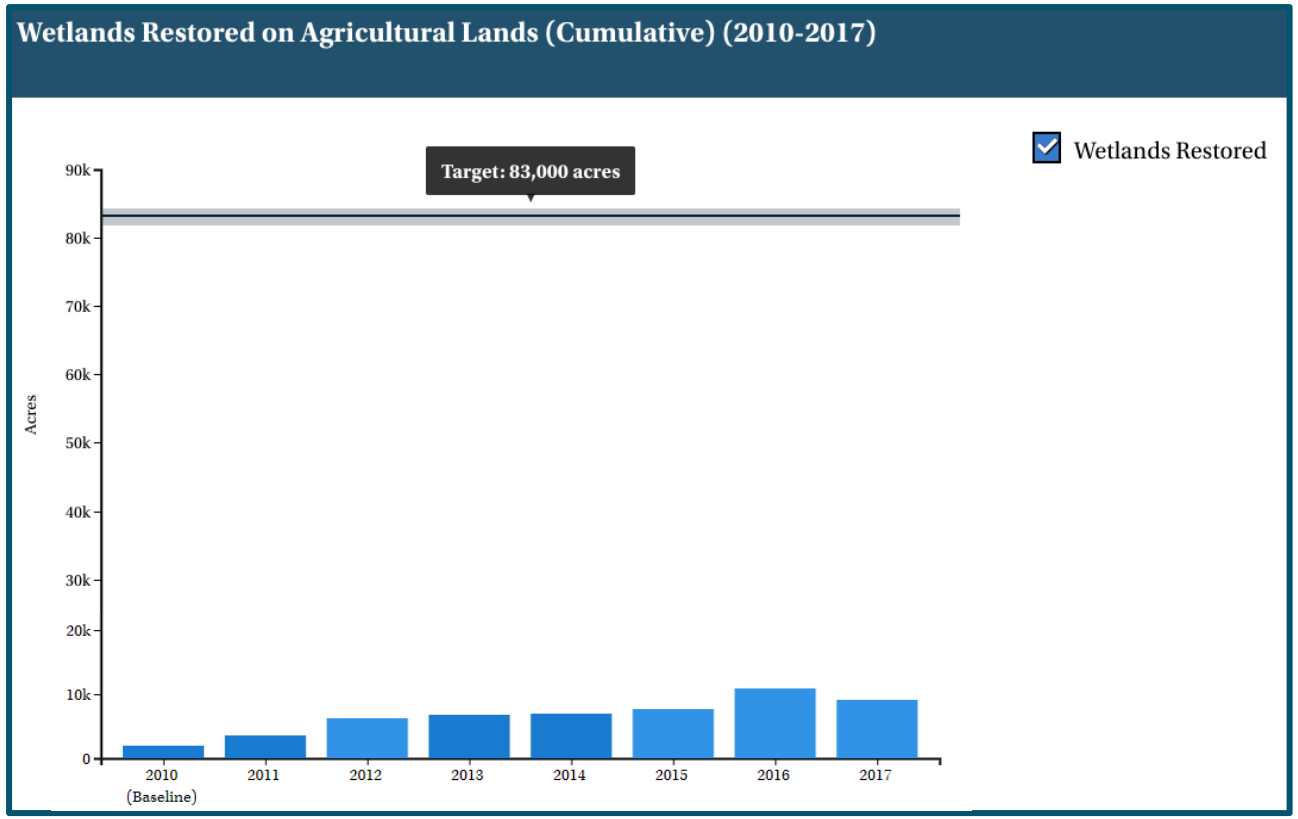
Continually increase the capacity of wetlands to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed. Create or reestablish 85,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands and enhance function of an additional 150,000 acres of degraded wetlands by 2025. These activities may occur in any land use (including urban), but primarily occur in agricultural or natural landscapes.

Current Progress

Between 2010 and 2017, 9,103 acres of wetlands were established, rehabilitated or reestablished on agricultural lands. While this outcome includes a target to restore 85,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands in the watershed, 83,000 of these restored acres should take place on agricultural lands. The wetlands restored on agricultural lands between 2010 and 2017 mark an 11% achievement of the 83,000-acre goal.

Outcome Achievement Uncertain

Wetland acreage data are inconsistently reported and inaccurate for assessing progress toward this outcome. Work is underway to identify a consistent means for collecting data by maximizing existing data reporting processes.



The Issue

Forest Buffer Outcome is one of a few outcomes that is significantly off-trajectory.

Forestry Workgroup, Action Team, etc. has done significant work on identifying barriers, gaps, and actions needed.

To significantly improve the rate of progress requires the attention and leadership of program managers and policy makers along with the SMEs currently on the Workgroup.

Proposal

What: Three One-day facilitated workshops hosted by the Wetlands and Forestry Workgroups

- Tidal Wetlands
- Non-Tidal Wetlands
- Forest Buffers

Who: Workgroup members, appropriate program managers identified by the workgroups, the Management Board, and others.

Outcomes:

- Options and recommendations to accelerate implementation.
- Recommendation for determining reasonableness of the target set in 2014.

Recommended Steps – Premeeting

- Review materials developed for achieving the Outcomes
- Develop a description of key barriers to increasing rate of implementation
- Review ideas for increasing the rate of implementation from the Biennial SRS meeting
- Review how the Outcome target was developed and whether it continues to be reasonable and achievable within the timeframe
- Develop an agenda to achieve the desired outcomes

Recommended Steps - Workshop

- Three one-day facilitated workshops
  - Tidal Wetlands
  - Nontidal Wetlands
  - Forest Buffers
- Use facilitated approaches such as the SWOT analyses
- Ensure the right people are in attendance
- Develop draft options and recommendations for both desired outcomes.

Recommended Steps – Post Workshop

Provide draft options and recommendations to the Management Board for action.

As needed, provide options and recommendations to the Principals' Staff Committee at a future quarterly meeting.

Consider how to take advantage of new funding opportunities.

What Do We Need From You?

- Do you support this proposal? What would you change?
- Do you agree that a workshop now would help?
- Can you help identify who would need to attend?
- Can you help with pulling together pre-meeting key information?

Questions?

Learn more:

- www.chesapeakebay.net
- www.chesapeakeprogress.com
- www.epa.gov/chesapeake-bay-tmdl
- **Facebook: Chesapeake Bay Program**
- **Twitter: @chesbayprogram**
- **Instagram: @chesbayprogram**

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